

and all loving mothers like her to set an agenda that will work to strengthen and support the most vital components of our great Nation, the American family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak in the gentleman from California's place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many of us want to join in wishing Mrs. Gingrey a happy birthday. And I guess we would say it is 8 o'clock, and she knows where her son is tonight at least.

Mr. Speaker, I am troubled by the assault on freedom of expression that we are seeing in the world today. I want to be very clear. The newspaper in Denmark, the name of which I will not even try to pronounce, had every right to print the cartoon. That does not mean the cartoon was not offensive or disrespectful. Free speech, freedom of expression means nothing if it does not mean the right to be mean and disrespectful and obnoxious. It is easy to be for free speech when it is polite and civil and when you agree with it.

One of the dangers that comes to free speech are those who say, well, yes, we believe in freedom of speech, but it should be respectful. We believe in freedom of speech, but it has to be reined in. No it does not. Freedom of expression means that as long as you are speaking or writing, as long as you are not acting, you are free to exercise what you think you need to say, what you think you need to write. Now, people who are offended by that writing have every right in return to be very critical and, indeed, even to boycott the organ that printed it.

But we see something today that is terribly frightening that goes far beyond it. First of all, we see this extraordinarily disproportionate violent reaction. I am struck that in parts of the Middle East and elsewhere, people who were apparently not moved to action by death and destruction and murder and famine, are moved to violence because somebody printed a cartoon. The values of people who put a cartoon ahead of serious damage to individuals as a cause of outrage are seriously deficient.

But it is also wrong when people say they are going to put pressure on the entire nation of Denmark because it will not censor a newspaper. Again, people have a right to boycott the newspaper. People who exercise their free speech have to expect there might be a response. But what we are being told is that people are going to punish the entire nation of Denmark because that government will not censor a newspaper. That is a terrible threat to free speech. It would be a grave error for the country of Denmark to give in. When I read that people are going to boycott Danish goods, I am myself moved to try to go out and buy some Danish food. I wish some of it was not quite so fattening, from what I look at.

But we must repudiate the notion that it is legitimate to punish the government and the country of that government because it will not censor a newspaper. That is a terrible threat to free speech. It is a threat to free speech again when people defend the newspaper in such a halfhearted way or when people say, well, they should not have printed that, and we understand why people are doing this. And freedom of speech must be tempered by respect for the views of others. No, it must not.

And I speak as someone who has espoused that principle in a variety of categories. I am Jewish and I believe that the Nazis had a legal right to march in Skokie, as despicable as I thought that was, as much as I thought people ought to have expressed their disagreement. I am a patriotic American, but I would not vote to put you in prison if you burned the American flag. And I must say, let us have some consistency here. People who are for jailing those who disrespect the American flag seem to me ought to be thinking about what kind of reaction they are seeing now because people dishonored the prophet Mohammed.

There are people who put their religion ahead of their country. That is not necessarily an irrational or an immoral thing to do. Let us be very careful. And by the way, I think that newspapers in the Arab world have a legal right to print vicious anti-Semitic cartoons that deny the Holocaust, that talk about "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

Again, let us have some consistency here. The consistency ought to be this: people have a right to write or say whatever they wish. People who are offended by that writing or that speech are entitled to retaliate, nonviolently, but by boycotts, by criticism from the person who expresses it. But when we see this kind of violence, when it is suggested that a cartoon justifies violence, when people are halfhearted in condemning the violence, when we have people say that it is legitimate to punish a government, not for publishing a cartoon, but for failing to censor the publication of that cartoon, then free speech is in danger.

So I think it is very important for us to say that people may have whatever

view they have about the cartoon, but we must speak up against what is a growing systematic campaign of intimidation that will result in a diminution of those important freedoms.

HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR HAM HORTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week the State of North Carolina lost one of its finest citizens, North Carolina Senator Hamilton "Ham" Horton. I had the great privilege of serving with Ham for 10 years in the North Carolina senate. I considered him to be not only a great role model and mentor but a trusted friend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Ham Horton for leading a rich life of service to others. I rise in trepidation because Senator Horton was such a wonderful orator and my skills are so inferior to his in intellect and expression.

Hamilton Cowles Horton, Jr., was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on August 6, 1931. He was the great-grandson of Calvin Josiah Cowles, who represented Wilkes County in the United States Congress and the great-grandson of William Woods Holden, who was the Governor of North Carolina following the War Between the States. Obviously, public service was in Ham's blood from the start.

Ham went on to receive his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served nine terms in the general assembly, one in the House, and the remainder in the State senate.

During his time in the general assembly, Ham gave impassioned and eloquent floor speeches on a wide range of topics. Whenever he took to the senate floor, Ham commanded the respect of everyone in his presence, Republicans and Democrats alike. I often said he was like E.F. Hutton: when he spoke, everyone listened. Ham had a strong sense of justice and doing what was right. He was an ardent supporter of the individual liberties bestowed by our Founding Fathers.

I will never forget when State inspectors tried to shut down a Winston-Salem market because it sold slices of country ham. Ham promptly introduced the Country Ham Preservation Act to exempt small markets from regulation on meat preparation. After all, he said, the only difference between tasting wine and tasting ham is that you spit out the wine and no one has been known to spit out the ham.

In all of my years in the senate, I have never seen a bill move so quickly. The senate passed the bill just 2 days after Ham filed it. Then the State House passed it the following day.

□ 2000

Ham had a gift of bringing people together, despite partisan differences, to